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C L A I M S

1. A method of ensuring authorized and process-optimized use of semi-finished materials for product production in a production facility, characterized by the following steps:
 - reading out calibration data to calibrate the production facility to the semi-finished materials to be processed and reading out the data about a predetermined maximum number of products to be produced (maximum number) from an external storage medium supplied with the semi-finished material,
 - calibrating the production facility in accordance with the calibration data of the semi-finished materials supplied,
 - programming the production facility to the maximum enabled number of products using best-possible calibration,
 - comparing a number of products produced from an authorized starting time (actual number) to the maximum number, and
 - outputting a message when the maximum number is exceeded by the actual number.

2. The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the actual number determined in the production facility is transmitted to a monitoring and control unit.
3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the maximum number is transmitted to the monitoring and control unit.
4. The method according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the transmitted data are encrypted.
5. The method according to one of Claims 2 to 4, characterized in that, for verification, a transaction number (TAN) is read in with the maximum number and transmitted to the monitoring and control unit.
6. The method according to Claim 5, characterized in that the TAN of the products to be produced is read out of the external storage medium delivered with the semi-finished material.
7. The method according to one of Claims 2 to 6, characterized in that the calibration data for calibrating the production facility is transmitted to the monitoring and control unit.
8. The method according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that after the maximum number is exceeded by the actual number, the monitoring and control unit stops the production facility and only

begins the production again after a new verified maximum number is read in.

9. The method according to one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that packaging materials for producing packages are used as the semi-finished material.
10. A device for ensuring authorized and process-optimized use of semi-finished materials for product production in a production facility according to one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized by a monitoring and control unit (6) for comparing the actual number of products produced from an authorized starting time to the maximum number of products to be produced, an output device for outputting a warning message and/or the request to input a new maximum number, a program memory for storing comparison algorithms, and an input device (10) for inputting the maximum number into the program memory and/or the monitoring and control unit (6).
11. The device according to Claim 10, characterized by a clock generator for determining the actual number.
12. The device according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized by an encryption unit for encrypting and decrypting programs and data.

13. The device according to one of Claims 10 to 12, characterized by a replaceable external storage medium for supplying the maximum number and/or further data.
14. The device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the external storage medium is a card having a magnetic strip and/or memory chip.
15. The device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the external storage medium is a diskette or a tape.
16. The device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the external storage medium is an optical disk.
17. The device according to one of Claims 10 to 16, characterized in that a monitoring unit (11) is provided and the monitoring unit (11) and/or its programs are completely or partially located outside the production facility.
18. The device according to Claim 17, characterized in that the monitoring unit (11) is connected to the monitoring and control unit (6) via a data net.
19. The device according to one of Claims 10 to 18, characterized in that a card reading device is used as an input device.

20. The device according to one of Claims 10 to 19, characterized in that the production facility is a filling facility.